

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: DURET et al

Serial No.:

Filed: March 19, 2002

For: Method And Device For Neutralizing, By Controlled Gas
Injection, The Formation of Liquid Slugs At The Foot Of
A Riser Connected To A Multiple Fluid Transport Pipe

Group:

Examiner:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner
for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 19, 2002

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits of this application and prior to calculation
of the filing fee, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

3. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said injected volume of gas is modulated by a quantity proportional to the flow rate variation of the liquid phase of the circulating fluids.
4. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the flow rate variation with time of the gas phase of the circulating fluids, measured at a previous time interval, is injected at a time t .
7. (Amended) A device as claimed in claim 5, comprising means for measuring the

flow rate of the liquid phase circulating in the pipe, the computer being suited to modulate the injected volume of gas by a quantity proportional to the measured flow rate variation of the liquid phase.

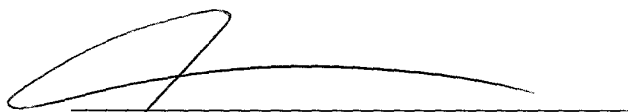
REMARKS

The foregoing amendments are respectfully requested prior to examination on the merits of this application. A marked up copy of the amended claims is attached.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 612.41302X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



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IN THE CLAIMS:

3. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that said injected volume of gas is modulated by a quantity proportional to the flow rate variation of the liquid phase of the circulating fluids.

4. (Amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the flow rate variation with time of the gas phase of the circulating fluids, measured at a previous time interval, is injected at a time t.

7. (Amended) A device as claimed in claim 5 ~~or 6~~, comprising means for measuring the flow rate of the liquid phase circulating in the pipe, the computer being suited to modulate the injected volume of gas by a quantity proportional to the measured flow rate variation of the liquid phase.